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4. — *Notes of Travel and Study in Italy.* By CHARLES ELIOT NORTON. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1860. 16mo. pp. 320.

THIS volume is partly descriptive and partly critical, and gathers up, in the form of a journal, the fruits of a protracted sojourn in Italy, — the first entry bearing the date of December, 1855, and the last that of April, 1857. It exhibits on every page the sure marks of liberal culture, and of an exact acquaintance with Italian literature; and notwithstanding the great number of books of Italian travel, it will be read with interest and profit for its picturesque descriptions and its manly and independent criticisms. Its style is fresh and animated; and in his selection of topics the author has, as far as was practicable, avoided the well-worn themes of previous travellers and critics. In his observations on the Papal system he does not hesitate to express an unreserved condemnation of the abuses which have rendered it a byword and a reproach throughout Italy, while he cordially recognizes the faithful labors of those humble and devoted men who, even in Rome itself, have sought to alleviate the temporal condition of their fellow-men. His art criticisms are genial and appreciative, though often differing from the popular judgments; and they are always clearly and candidly stated. Among the most characteristic and attractive portions of the volume are the account of the *Compagnia della Misericordia* of Florence, the description of the *Duomo* of Orvieto, and the notices of Rome in the time of Dante and in the time of Petrararch. They show the familiarity with Italian literature and history which Mr. Norton brought to the execution of his work, and his warm and generous sympathies with every philanthropic labor, even more than his dislike of the Romish Church. A part of the volume, we should add, was first published in the columns of an art-journal in New York; but the greater part of it is now printed for the first time.

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5. — *El Fureidîs.* By the Author of "The Lamplighter" and "Mabel Vaughan." Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1860. 16mo. pp. 379.

MISS CUMMINS'S first work achieved a very great and remarkable degree of popularity, partly through its own intrinsic merits, and partly through its special adaptation to an intellectual craving of novel-readers at the time of its publication. They had been satiated with highly-wrought fictions, both of native and foreign origin, crowded with improbable incidents, and of questionable influence on the moral char-